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VENONA
~~TOP SECRET~~



USSR

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DETAILS ABOUT

("GRADUS") AND "MEYR'S" VISIT TO HIM
(1944)

From: STOCKHOLM

To: MOSCOW

No.: 369 ✓

4th February 1944

To VIKTOR[i].

Having received a number of leads, "MEYR"[ii] visited
(henceforth "GRADUS")[iii]. He
is about 33 years old, received a higher education and lived in FRANCE, has been in
the USSR and brought a half-Russian wife back from LENINGRAD. He is a member of the
National-Socialist Party; is considered an outstanding journalist. On hearing from
MEYR about

[15 groups unrecoverable]

doubts[a] that GERMANY will be utterly defeated, but [2 groups unrecovered] great
hopes [B% since] he has been a loyal servant of the Nazis. He is ready to pay the

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[Continued overleaf]

penalty for the enormous harm he has caused by his work during the past ten years. [2 groups unrecovered] [BX doomed]: if he is sent to the front, he will be killed; if he is left where he is and a catastrophe occurs, he will commit suicide because he would be executed in any case. He does not want to cling on to life and beg for mercy. GRADUS spoke with bitterness of the untruthfulness of German propaganda and of the moral corruption of the German nation - which does not suspect that everyone considers the Germans to be barbarians - and he expressed the fear that the denouement would take the form of extermination of the Germans. [CX They themselves] consider HITLER and his government to be the guilty ones. Originally he was attracted by the National-Socialist ideology, but later this turned into a vile parody of itself. For many years he has been forcing himself to read the German press and to write similar lies himself. He does not share a single one of the Nazis' aims and feels deep loathing for them and for himself. "GRADUS" asked METR whether the Committee[iv] could guarantee his life or offer him some hope of atoning for his guilt by working on the Committee: but then he himself answered this question by saying no, adding that consequently it was all up with him. He asked METR to keep the visit and conversation secret and not to break off contact with

[9 groups unrecovered]

when an opportunity offers to visit him. Please indicate whether you consider it advisable to develop "GRADUS" with the object of establishing direct liaison with him.

No. 55 ✓

VALERIAN[v]

Note: [a] The verb may be in the negative i.e. "he does not doubt".

Comments: [i] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
 [ii] METR: ✗ i.e. "METRE". Unidentified covername.
 [iii] GRADUS: ✗ i.e. "DEGREE".
 [iv] Committee: ✓ Probably the Free GERMANY National Committee.
 [v] VALERIAN: ✗ Vasilij Fedorovich RAZIN, 1st Secretary at the Soviet Legation in STOCKHOLM.